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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER ACCOUNTANT SENTENCED TO 63 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT**  
**FOR MULTIMILLION DOLLAR EMBEZZLEMENT SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that accountant STEPHEN HOUSE, age 51, of Nevada City, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia to 63 months imprisonment for the embezzlement of over \$4 million from various clients. The defendant previously pled guilty to wire fraud in connection with this crime on February 3, 2006.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney S. Robert Tice-Raskin, who prosecuted the case, defendant STEPHEN HOUSE was a principal in the accounting firm of House and Company. HOUSE's clients included a major cabinet manufacturing business, a landowner partnership, various estates, and various elderly individuals, all of whom entrusted money to defendant for purposes of investment, management, or payment of client expenses. Rather than faithfully execute his fiduciary duties, between 2000 and 2004, HOUSE diverted \$4.4 million of client funds to himself for his personal use.

Given the aggravated circumstances of the offense, Judge Garcia ordered that HOUSE receive a 63-month sentence, the highest sentence permitted under the advisory federal sentencing guidelines. Defendant was ordered to make full restitution to the victims and was remanded immediately into custody to commence his sentence.

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